

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Point of Contact: Marje Pihlak, humanitarian aid desk officer,
marje.pihlak@mfa.ee; +372 6377 200**

Date of Submission: 13.02.2020

(NB. Please limit your answer to no more than **3 pages in total** – anything over this word limit will not be considered by ODI in their analysis. Please respond to all of the questions below.)

Question 1: Reflecting on the information you have provided in the Excel spreadsheet, please highlight the 2 or 3 key outcomes or results relating to the Grand Bargain that your institution achieved in 2019?

- **Enhanced quality funding.** Estonian Development-Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategy sets goals for 4 years and it goes hand-in-hand with the results indicators for budget allocation. Multi-year planning and funding is also common for the bi-lateral humanitarian aid projects. We make our yearly non-earmarked transfers at the end of each year, in order to make the planning process more predictable.
- **Enhanced capacity of local and national responders.** Estonian NGOs implementing the humanitarian projects for example in Ukraine are using flexible, needs based working methods, that involve local community and local partners. Part of a contribution has also been small grants to individual needs. In 2019 Estonia was one of the first contributors to the OCHA Ukraine Country Based Pool Fund.
- **Humanitarian-development nexus.** Estonia supports sustainable livelihoods, vocational education and psychosocial support of Syrian refugees living in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey

Question 2: Please explain how the outcomes/results have or will lead to long-term institutional changes in policy and/or practice.

Estonian humanitarian aid has been mainly multilateral and multi-year. That allows partners on the field better plan their activities. It goes for our humanitarian NGOs implementing the projects. As humanitarian crisis last longer, people forced to leave their homes need different approach than in acute crisis. The need for humanitarian-development nexus is relevant. More attention is needed to offer activities that contribute to the self-reliance of the refugees, for example vocational education, IT skills training, entrepreneurship courses and psychosocial support. Those aspects should be taken account in the long-term policies and planning.

Question 3: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment¹ in humanitarian settings through its implementation of the Grand Bargain? What results/outcomes have been achieved in this regard? (please outline specific initiatives or changes in practice and their outcomes/results). Please refer to the Guidelines for definitions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which are included in this self-report template package.

Our humanitarian activities for refugees and IDPs take account the needs of most vulnerable groups. Special attention is paid to women. For example in Turkey

¹ Refer to the IASC definitions of gender equality and women empowerment, available [here](#).

women were provided with sewing and handicraft courses, from which they will be provided a small income. Whole families received full psychosocial support to help overcome the traumas of war. In Lebanon, vocational training courses in three sectors (carpentry, sewing and knitting) targeting vulnerable Syrian refugees were provided, followed by establishment of a sustainable social enterprise which provides sustainable employment also after the end of the project. As the result of the project, 180 families have enhanced their livelihoods in a sustainable manner.

Question 4: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments? Please explain how your institution has linked commitments 10.1 - 10.5 with other commitments from other workstreams.

Estonian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid is under one structure in the MFA. We have 4 years' strategic plan in the same document. Same director of the division and DG are responsible for the budget planning. That allows synergies between the activities in both fields. Many of the Estonian Development Cooperation and humanitarian Aid activities are complementary, where possible (in the protracted crisis, preparedness activities).